

Graphic Elements

This activity accompanies “Religion,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5007.

Activity Title: Graphic Elements

Description: The students will explain how the meaning of the poem is enhanced through line length, punctuation, and word position.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Literary Analysis

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain how the meaning of the poem is enhanced through the graphic elements (line length, punctuation, word position).

Materials:

- “Religion” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils

Procedures:

Read the poem with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the graphic elements of a poem. Next, have the students work with a partner to write an explanation about how the graphic elements enhance the meaning of the poem. Finally, conduct a whole group discussion including all of the explanations of the partners.

